

The City of Kelso Lodging Tax Fund Informational Packet

Kelso receives tax revenue from those who stay in Kelso lodging establishments. The amount received every year depends on the rise and fall of the tourist industry.

These funds are placed in the Kelso Lodging Tax Fund (AKA-Stadium Fund). The funds have legal limitations on their use. The main purpose of this funding source is to increase tourist stays in our local lodging establishments.

The Lodging Tax or Stadium Fund is governed by the City Council of the City of Kelso. State law has also established a Lodging Tax Advisory Committee. This Committee hears requests for funding and makes recommendations to the Kelso City Council on expenditure of the Lodging Tax Revenues.

The Lodging Tax Advisory Committee and the Kelso City Council want to use the lodging tax funds for those projects or activities that will bring the greatest return on dollars invested or will result in additional bed stays in local lodging establishments. These funds are available for agencies and events that will promote tourism and encourage participants to sample the hospitality of our citizens and local businesses. All requests for funding will be evaluated according to availability of funds and prioritized based on tourism activities that:

- Have high potential to result in overnight stays by tourists in lodging establishments within the City of Kelso
- Promote Kelso and/or events, activities, and places in the City of Kelso to potential tourists from outside Cowlitz County.
- Have demonstrated or high potential from the Committee's perspective to result in documented economic benefit to Kelso.
- Have a demonstrated history of success in Kelso, or are proposed by a group with a demonstrated history or high potential of success with similar activities.
- Minimize duplication of services where appropriate and encourage cooperative marketing and/or includes an element of cooperation or partnership.
- Provide, maintain, operate, or enhance City-owned tourism facilities or infrastructure.

The deadline for submitting your application is 5 p.m. on July 31, 2015. The application will be presented to the Lodging Tax Committee and they will make a recommendation to the City Council on which agency, activity or group to fund as well as the amount. Public input on these recommendations is welcome at both the Lodging Tax Committee meeting and during the budget process. The Kelso City Council will make the final decision on which lodging tax activities/groups to fund at a regular council meeting scheduled in the fall of 2015.

If the council approves a funding request, it is the responsibility of the individual/group/agency requesting those funds to submit an invoice to the City of Kelso. All requests for reimbursement must be submitted prior to December 31 in the year the award was granted.

If you have any additional questions, please call Amy Mullerleile at 360-577-3301.